



CVUSD Bring Your Own Device Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *What is “Bring Your Own Device”?*

A: BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is just as it sounds. Students may bring their own, privately owned portable technology devices such as laptops, tablets, smart phones, etc. Bring Your Own Device allows schools to accelerate the use of technology in the classroom by allowing students to use their own devices.

Q: *Does my child really need to bring a device to school?*

A: No, your child doesn't have to bring a device to school, it is completely optional. In the future, CVUSD anticipates providing each student with a school district purchased technology device as a standard educational material. That will require significant additional funding and technology support, and is probably several years in the future. In the interim, we want to create a safe environment that allows your child to bring a privately owned device if they wish, and you agree.

Q: *Will access to a personal computing device make my child a better student?*

A: Portable computing programs are very effective at engaging students in the learning process, and there are a large number of success stories to report. Access to a personal device gives students access to “anywhere, anytime” learning and collaborative platforms such as Google Drive and Edmodo. Educators are virtually unanimous in believing that the appropriate integration of technology into instruction improves the learning environment, and student achievement.

Q: *I am concerned that my child will abuse the Internet and/or be targeted by a predator.*

A: While connected to the Internet at school, your student must pass through our firewall, which includes internet filtering, monitoring, and site blocking. Although it is not 100% foolproof it does an excellent job of keeping the internet safe for the great majority of students. In reality, it is a far safer, and more controlled Internet environment than children experience when accessing wireless networks in the larger community. CVUSD cannot monitor and review each student's activity, nor can it block every loop-hole that a creative and tech-savvy student might be able to find. We do, however, have a detailed Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) in place that has been presented to all students. The AUP guides students in the appropriate use of technology. The school may limit access to the network or take away technology privileges as a consequence for major violations of trust, respect, or responsibility in an area pertaining to technology (for example, “hacking the network, cyber bullying, using inappropriate web sites).

Q: What types of computing devices may my child bring to school?

A: Students may use devices that fall into the following categories: (1) laptops, (2) netbooks, (3) tablets/iPads (4) smart phones. Students will be provided with very specific rules and regulations about when they can, and cannot use these devices at school, and in the classroom. Some of these rules will vary from school to school based upon the ages of students, and classroom to classroom depending upon the subject matter under study, as well as the instructional activities assigned. Educators, as well as parents are rightfully concerned about these devices becoming a distraction at school, rather than a learning tool. The rules and regulations schools and teachers will adopt are intended to prevent the use of these devices as games and social communication tools during classroom instruction.

Q: How can my child's computing device connect to the Internet?

A: CVUSD provides a wireless network which students may connect to while using their devices in most areas of the school. All secondary sites have such access and wireless access availability in our elementary schools is expanding. Additionally, students may use an Internet connection from an outside provider depending upon availability. In this case, the family will be responsible for any expense incurred using this type of Internet connection, and in most cases the connection is not filtered.

Q: Are there suggested accessories?

A: A protective sleeve is suggested. This will provide more protection for the day to day use of these computing devices. A headset with microphone will be useful when accessing a website with audio and/or video.

Q: What hardware considerations are important?

A: Almost any portable computer that is three years old or newer should work in our wireless environment. A good general test is if the computer will run MS Office it should be sufficient for most tasks. Also, any personal device needs to have some sort of updated and reliable virus protection: For personal computers, free antivirus/spyware software includes:

Avast: <http://www.avast.com/free-antivirus-download>

Microsoft Security Essentials: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/products/security-essentials>

Q: Will the District's technology department provide support for the devices that my student brings?

A: The school staff will work with the student to determine if there are minor setting problems, battery issues, or other simple solutions. More complicated issues will need to be addressed by parents and the technology assistance they employ for any of their other privately owned computers, phones, etc. District site techs are not authorized to download software nor repair any significant hardware problems on privately owned devices.

Q: Who pays for the BYOD technology brought to school?

A: These devices will be purchased by, and remain the property of the family. Of course, purchasing these devices is optional.

Q: Who is responsible for damage, loss, or theft of devices your child brings to school?

A: Families must stress the responsibilities their children have when bringing their own computing devices to school. Just like other student property, any devices students bring to school are the responsibility of the student and their family. Conejo Valley Unified School District assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of personal computing devices.

Q: How will a child's education differ if the family does not have a device to bring to school?

A: No child's learning experience or academic performance will be affected because he or she does not have a device to bring to school. The CVUSD is committed to providing access to technology so that all children can utilize 21st Century devices and learn equally. All students will have representative access to school district purchased devices, as necessary to complete work and projects assigned by their teachers. Some families may choose to enhance their own child's access through the use of their own device.

Q: Does my child need to have a signed Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy on file?

A: Yes. In order for the Conejo Valley Unified School District to supervise student use of the computer network and the Internet, students and their parents in grades 3-12 who want access to educational technology resources must read the AUP and sign the AUP signature page. Students 18 or older may sign the document themselves. Signing the document indicates that the student and parent/guardian have read, understand and will follow the expectations of Conejo Valley Unified School District.

Q: Will students be able to print documents from their personal computing devices?

A: For reasons of network security and the prevention of viruses, students will not be able to access printers at CVUSD Schools directly from their personal computing devices. We will provide alternatives as directed by school staff.

Q: Where will my child's work be stored?

Students will be encouraged to store their work on their District provided Google Drive accounts, if necessary. In so doing, the student will have access to their work wherever they have Internet access.